GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:254
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
PROCUREMENT OF RICE
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government agencies failed to procure sufficient quantity of paddy and rice during the current Kharif season despite the announcement of bonus;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the targets set and achieved for procurement of paddy and rice during the last three years and during the current season, State-wise;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has decided to open more procurement centres and hike the rate of bonus to achieve the procurement targets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other measures proposed in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 254 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2007 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): As per the estimates given by State Food Secretaries before the onset of Kharif Marketing Season (KMS), it has been estimated that 276 lakh tonnes of rice would be procured in KMS 2007-08. The procurement in the current KMS 2007-08 upto 28.11.2007 has been 90.29 lakh tonnes of rice against 93.86 lakh tonnes procured in the corresponding period last year. Since KMS 2007-08 commenced on 01.10.2007 and will continue upto 30.9.2008, it is not correct that Government agencies have failed to procure sufficient quantity of paddy and rice in current KMS.

(b)&(c): Since procurement of foodgrains is under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations, Government agencies have to purchase all quantities offered at MSP by farmers. Therefore no targets are fixed. However, for operational and administrative reasons, estimates of procurement are drawn up for each State based on the assessment made by State Food Secretaries. The State-wise estimates as well as actual procurement of rice during the last three years as well as current KMS are at Annexure-I.

(d)&(e): Food Corporation of India has informed that as on 20.11.2007, 8448 procurement centers have been opened by Government agencies in KMS 2007-08. FCI/State Agencies have been directed to open more procurement centers wherever needed. Government has decided on 15.11.2007 to give an additional incentive bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal (over and above the bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal already announced) for procurement of paddy during KMS 2007-08. The measures taken to maximize procurement of paddy/rice in the current KMS 2007-08 are at Annexure-II.